

## 59TH INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, before the American people and the world, the peaceful transfer of power that has helped define our Nation for more than 230 years was carried out. We swore in the 46th President and the 49th Vice President of the United States.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS are both alumni of the U.S. Senate. They are well known to us in this Chamber. They begin their terms with both challenges and opportunities before them, and with the prayers of our whole Nation at their backs.

President Biden made unity the major theme of his inaugural address. He pledged to be a President for all Americans, to work as hard for the many millions of Americans who did not support his candidacy as he will for the millions who did. So I congratulate my friend from Delaware. I look forward to working with him as our new President wherever possible.

Our country deserves for both sides, both parties, to find common ground for the common good everywhere that we can and disagree respectfully where we must. Last fall, the American people chose to elect a narrowly divided House of Representatives, a 50-50 Senate, and a President who promised unity. The people intentionally entrusted both political parties with significant power to shape our Nation's direction. May we work together to honor that trust.

Earlier today, I was honored to present our former colleague, Vice President HARRIS, with a flag that flew over her historic swearing in as our Nation's first woman Vice President. This groundbreaking achievement elicits national pride that transcends politics. All citizens can applaud the fact that this new three-word phrase, "Madam Vice President," is now a part of our American lexicon. So, once again, our sincere congratulations to our former colleague from California on this day.

I also join my colleagues in warmly welcoming our three newest Senators. Senator PADILLA of California and Senators OSSOFF and WARNOCK of Georgia have been sent to this Chamber by their home States to represent their neighbors and to serve our Nation. We have plenty of Senate business to discuss at length in the days ahead, but, for now, I just want to congratulate each of our new colleagues. I look forward to working alongside them.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

## MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2 minutes to speak, please, for two purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

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Mr. GRASSLEY. One, I congratulate my friend, PATRICK LEAHY for once again assuming the position of President pro tempore after 6 years of absence, I believe, and also to express my working relationship with him in the 40 years that he and I have served together in the U.S. Senate.

But also to the fourth estate, because we always read about rancor on television, radio, and print—they never speak about how Senators get along. We have seen a peaceful transfer of leadership position in the U.S. Senate, from a Senator from Kentucky to a Senator from New York.

Now, for the first purpose of rising, because most of my colleagues don't know, when there is nobody on the Senate and I open the Senate up for prayer and for the Pledge of Allegiance, I usually give a 1-minute speech. And I would like to give my last 1-minute speech as President pro tempore. I am not saying that I won't take advantage of that opportunity when nobody else is around, as well.

Four years ago, our Nation's Capital was full of people who had come to celebrate a new President's inauguration, and it was full of people who came to protest the winner of that election.

This Biden inauguration was different in that respect. But this year, just like 4 years ago, there are Americans who question the election outcome and did not want the inauguration to proceed. Since election day, I have urged Americans to have faith in our constitutional system and let the Constitution work the way it has for 240 years—work its course. Today was the culmination of that process.

Like 4 years ago, I know that many Americans are not happy with how it turned out. That is absolutely fine, just like 4 years ago was fine for those people that resisted.

In our country, nobody is obliged to like or support a President, but, hopefully, people will really respect the Office of the Presidency, regardless who holds it.

However, while the Presidency changed hands, I hope we can retire, hashtag "resist."

You wouldn't know it listening to partisan commentators from the right or left, but you do not have to make a choice between giving your President unqualified support or total opposition to the President.

As a legislator, I would be doing a disservice to those I represent if I did either unqualified support for a Republican President or total opposition to a Democratic President. In my work on behalf of Iowans, I have to engage with the administration of the day if I want to be a responsible Senator.

As I have with every President, I will seek to find common ground with President Biden wherever possible, but I will strongly oppose policies that I think are not good for Iowa and all Americans. That will be on input that I receive from my fellow Iowans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier today I was proud to join my colleagues in witnessing the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.

I remembered, as I walked away from that inauguration ceremony, the experience I had 4 years ago. There was a luncheon. Traditionally there is a luncheon given for the new President and Vice President. That luncheon was my first opportunity to meet President Donald Trump. I had never met him before.

I went up to him at the head table, and I introduced myself and said: I just want to tell you that I am working in the U.S. Senate for the DREAM Act. I believe that these Dreamers deserve a chance to become part of America's future.

President Donald Trump, minutes after having taken the oath of office, said: Senator, don't worry about those young people. We will take care of them.

That was my first conversation with President Trump. What transpired afterwards is a matter of record in the history of this country. We know also what happened in this Capitol Building just 2 weeks ago.

That is why this inauguration was so different. We were battling a deadly virus and possibly a deadly attack by American terrorists. The U.S. Capitol was as closely guarded as I have ever seen it. We estimate that 25,000 soldiers—National Guard and Active-Duty soldiers—were in town to protect us from all around the United States, including 260 from the State of Illinois, I am very proud to announce. They did their job and did it well. I thank them for their service and sacrifice and separation from their families. But at the same time, we are facing a deadly virus. In the midst of a global pandemic, today's celebration had to be tempered so that people were safe from wherever they sat and from wherever they gathered.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS understand that our Nation

faces a unique set of circumstances. They also understand that we are a unique nation. What makes us special is that people from all over the world come to our shores to become Americans, not because of their race or ethnicity but because they embrace America's values.

Never before in American history have those ideals been tested as they have been in the last 4 years. A hallmark of the former administration was a relentless attack on immigrants. One of the main targets were the very Dreamers whom I spoke to President Trump about, young immigrants who came to the United States as children.

It was 11 years ago that I joined with then-Senator Dick Lugar of Indiana on a bipartisan basis to call on President Obama to use his legal authority to protect Dreamers from deportation. Our argument was simple: These young people were brought to the United States as children. Their parents made the decision to come here. They grew up here, went to school here, pledged allegiance to that very flag every day in their classrooms, and believed they were part of this country.

Usually sometime in their teenage years, their parents sat down with them and told them the grim reality: They have no country—not the one they left nor the one they currently live in.

So I introduced legislation 20 years ago, the DREAM Act, in an effort to give them a chance, a chance to earn their way to legal status and citizenship, but I have been unable to enact that into law in both the House and the Senate in any given year. I have been stymied and stopped by the filibuster too many times.

President Obama knew that. When he was a Senator here before being elected to be President, he was a cosponsor of my DREAM Act, so I knew where his heart was and I appealed to him—could he do something. And he did. He created DACA.

DACA, by Executive order, provided temporary protection from deportation to Dreamers. If they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass a criminal and national security background check, they could have a temporary right to work here in the United States and be free from deportation.

More than 800,000 Dreamers came forward with President Obama's DACA. DACA unleashed the full potential of these Dreamers, who are contributing to our country this very day as soldiers, teachers, and business owners. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 200,000 DACA recipients have been characterized as "essential critical infrastructure workers" during this pandemic. That wasn't my designation; it was the designation of the Trump administration. Among those essential workers are 41,700 DACA recipients in the healthcare industry—doctors, intensive care nurses, paramedics, and respiratory therapists.

Well, on September 5, 2017, former President Trump repealed DACA. Hun-

dreds of thousands of Dreamers faced losing their work permits and being deported to countries they barely remembered, if they remembered them at all.

Last summer, the Supreme Court rejected President Trump's effort to end deportation protection for Dreamers. In an opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, the Court held that the President's attempt to rescind DACA was "arbitrary and capricious."

Today, in one of his first official acts, President Joseph Biden signed an Executive order to restore DACA. I am eternally grateful for President Biden's courage and commitment in keeping his word. Without DACA, hundreds of thousands of talented young people who have grown up in our country cannot continue their work and risk deportation every single day.

But the resumption of DACA is just the first step toward long-overdue justice for Dreamers. Only legislation passed by Congress can provide a path to citizenship to the Dreamers. I first introduced the bipartisan DREAM Act 20 years ago, as I mentioned, and I will continue to do so until it becomes the law of the land.

I am honored that I have a chance to serve as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in the 117th Congress. As a child of an immigrant myself, I never dreamed that I would be blessed with the opportunity to lead the committee that writes our Nation's immigration laws.

To all of the Dreamers out there, I have told you many times: I have never given up on you; don't give up on me. I am going to pass the DREAM Act.

Over the years, I have come to the floor with the most persuasive approach I can think of to pass the DREAM Act and make it the law of the land. I tell their stories. These stories show what is at stake when we consider DACA and the DREAM Act. It is not a theory. It is not just a law. These are real, human lives.

Today I want to tell you about Hina Naveed. She is the 127th Dreamer whose story I have told on the floor of the Senate.

Hina was born in Pakistan and came to the United States from Dubai when she was 10 years old. She grew up in Fall River, MA.

She sent me a letter, and here is what she said about growing up:

I had a pretty typical experience navigating a new country and new school system. It wasn't until I turned 16 and my peers were getting their permits and their first jobs that I really felt the impact of being undocumented.

Hina was an excellent student. In high school, she was president of the National Honor Society and Key Club. She graduated as the salutatorian of her class, ranked second out of 350 students with a 4.0 GPA. She received the Outstanding Vocational Student for Health Careers Award and Overall Outstanding Vocational Student Award.

She went to the City University of New York College of Staten Island,

where she earned associate's degrees in liberal arts and nursing and a bachelor of science in nursing. She studied at CUNY Law School, where she graduated with a law degree.

Thanks to DACA, Hina became a registered nurse. She worked as director of health services for a nonprofit, community-based organization in New York. Her department provides healthcare services for children in foster care, many of whom are victims of medical neglect. She is also a member of the New York City Medical Reserve Corps. At the height of the pandemic, she volunteered on weekends at a hospital and at a residential facility with COVID-19 patients.

Hina wrote to me about her plans:

I want to work on health policy reform at a local and state level in an effort to achieve health equity for all. This pandemic has highlighted health disparities that have long existed, and I want to be part of making the change I want to see and experience.

Here is what Hina said about DACA and what it meant to her:

DACA has been life-changing. It has allowed me to drive, work, achieve fiscal independence, continue higher education, and contribute to my community more than I would have been able to otherwise. However, it is temporary, and with the benefits it provides, it has also cast a shadow over my life, forcing me to plan my life in 2-year increments.

Well, let me start by saying thank you to her, to Hina Naveed, for her service on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. All of us are in awe of our healthcare heroes. She is an immigrant healthcare hero. She is a DACA healthcare hero. She has put herself and her family at risk to protect others. She also shouldn't have to worry about being deported tomorrow and her family facing division.

Will America be a stronger country if we just up and deport her or if she became an American citizen? I think the choice is clear.

Hina and hundreds of thousands of other Dreamers are counting on those of us who serve in the Senate. So here is where we stand. The Senate Judiciary Committee will soon organize—I hope very soon—and I will have an opportunity to appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the table to join me in a bipartisan effort to pass the DREAM Act.

President Biden has made it his clear priority, and I share it. I want this to be the first measure that we consider in the area of immigration. But I know we live in a 50-50 Senate, and it is possible that once again I will need to muster 60 votes to pass this on the floor. So, whatever we do, it has to be bipartisan. That means it won't have everything in it that I want or everything that maybe Hina or the advocates want, but we have to take a step forward once and for all to help these young people.

As long as I am a Senator, I will continue to fight for Hina Naveed and for people who have come to this country just to make it better. It would be an

American tragedy to deport this brave and talented healthcare professional in the midst of a pandemic. We must ensure that she and hundreds of thousands of our essential workforce are not forced to stop contributing when the need for their service has never been greater, and we must give them the chance they deserve to become American citizens.

I cannot express my gratitude enough for President Biden, in the first hours that he was in office, recognizing the needs of the DACA recipients and the Dreamers. I want to work with him and work with both parties across the aisle to make this dream come true for so many who deserve it. They have waited long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### NOMINATION OF AVRIL HAINES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, for the information of other Senators who want to know if we have a vote tonight specifically on the nomination of Avril Haines to be Director of National Intelligence, I was the last person to object to holding that vote. I no longer object.

I wanted to have a question for the record answered. Miss Haines, thankfully, responded to my question yesterday. I want to thank Senator RUBIO and Senator WARNER for helping us get that answer.

Specifically, in her open session yesterday, she gave an answer to Senator WYDEN that suggested the intelligence community might reopen investigations into detention interrogation programs from 2001 to 2006. She clarified, in the private setting that we had, that she had no intention to open up those investigations and expose operations officers inside the CIA to criminal prosecution or adverse employment action or even holding it against them in potential future promotions or placements.

She has confirmed that in the written record. I am glad to see that we are not going to reopen that period.

I want to thank Ms. Haines for providing the answer.

Most importantly, I want to thank our brave operations and paramilitary operations officers in the CIA for what they do, always, to keep this country safe. I am ready to vote on this nomination. I believe the rest of the Senate is as well.

I yield back the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, at noon today, Joe Biden was sworn in as our

new President. I never served with President Biden when he was a Senator, but I can tell you, from direct and firsthand experience, that he is a man of tremendous empathy. I have witnessed it. And so I pray that God will bless him with strength, with health, and with wisdom, because I don't need to tell anyone that we, in our Nation, are living in troubled times.

President Trump was elected and then, in this last cycle, received 75 million votes, in part because he spoke to and was brutally honest about some of the grievances and the fears that are now dividing our country. It is important to understand that he didn't create them, and that is why his exit alone is not going to make America normal again.

The troubles we face and the things that now divide us really aren't so much about politics or about ideology. If you look into them, they are really more about the things that are at the core of our identity as a nation and as a people.

Our people want a country where everybody has the opportunity to find a good job, to get married, to live in a safe neighborhood, to not go into debt because they have a baby, to send their kids to a good school, and one day to retire with dignity and security. But we have millions of Americans who increasingly feel that that kind of life and those kinds of things are out of reach for them, and they are really frustrated that neither those in government or either political party seem to be doing much about them.

The people need a sense of belonging and purpose, but the places that we used to get that from—our families, the community groups we joined, the synagogues, the churches—many of them are in collapse. So now you have millions of people who feel isolated or alienated and some who are turning to hyperpartisan politics and even online conspiracy cults to fill the void that those institutions once filled.

The overwhelming majority of Americans reject racism and bigotry and discrimination. But they also reject identity politics, which constantly seems to want to divide us against and apart from each other on the basis of race and ethnicity and gender.

We are a nation that is proud of our heritage as a nation of immigrants, but millions of Americans—I would say the majority—also believe we are a nation that has to have immigration laws. They need to be followed, and they need to be enforced.

Most Americans accept that our country, our society is changing, and they understand that there are people with different views and different ways of life. What they do resent is efforts to demonize and to persecute those who hold the traditional values that are inherited from our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Most Americans believe decency and morality require that everyone is entitled to dignity and to respect. But

there are also many growing increasingly tired of walking on eggshells of political correctness and forced to undergo sensitivity training because everyone seems to be so easily offended these days by everything.

People understand that we have to do something. It is a problem. We have to do something about people who use social media to spread dangerous lies, to instigate violence. But I think they also have a right to be very troubled that five CEOs of technology companies—five people in five companies, elected by no one, accountable to no one—have the power, if they so choose, to wipe out, to silence anyone—even a President.

And I would tell you that, almost without exception, they were horrified—horrified—about what happened here 2 weeks ago today. They want those people in jail. But they also wonder: Where was that outrage when this summer, in multiple cities, across a number of months, there were people setting fire to police cars and breaking into police stations and attacking courthouses and looting private property?

I will tell you that they see firsthand every day the extraordinary damage being done by this terrible pandemic and the damage being done by our bitter divisions, which, frankly, I think most Americans will never understand why the first thing we are going to do here, potentially, is an impeachment trial of a President who isn't even in office anymore.

What happened today was incredibly important. The pageantry, the rituals behind it—it matters. And for the 59th time in our history, we peacefully transferred power from one leader to the next. I think the fact that that happened on the very steps of this Capitol, where just 2 weeks ago on this day we saw an unimaginable attack on democracy, that should serve as a reminder to all of us in this country and a powerful message to the world that our Republic remains resilient.

But now the hard work of self-government begins, and these anxieties I have just described—the tens of millions of Americans—need to be acknowledged, and they need to be addressed. If they are ignored, if they are allowed to fester, what it will do is it will leave us not just a nation that is paralyzed and can't take action on important issues; we are going to be left a nation that remains vulnerable to those who are willing to exploit and stir the most destructive impulses.

Today, President Biden struck important tones of national unity, and I believe they were sincere. But pursuing a radical agenda in a country so divided does not serve the cause of unity. It will only serve cynicism that destroys trust.

By the same token, continuing to fan the flames of grievances or, in the alternative, pursuing vengeance disguised as accountability will not serve the cause of unity either. That is nothing but the politics of resentment and